

## UNIT 2: KLAWOCK LAKE

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

If determined to be state owned, (see Notes) the lakebed of Klawock Lake and other state lands in this unit will be managed to protect crucial fish and wildlife habitat of the Klawock Lake drainage, outlet stream, and estuary. This drainage is reported to produce more fish than any other system in southern southeast Alaska.

Some shoreline development activities will be accommodated along the southern shore of the lake, adjacent to the uplands Shaan-Seet, Inc. distributed to its shareholders. This disposal of land might stimulate upland settlement along the southern shore and lead to associated demands for use of the lake.

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

Refer to land use designation map for primary and secondary uses and fish and wildlife ratings.

### PROHIBITED USES

- Floathomes in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Mineral location in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Filling state tidelands and submerged lands for residential purposes.

### MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Refer to Chapter 2 for guidelines common to this unit and all management units. The following guidelines apply to this specific unit.

- **Public Access to Campsite on Klawock Lake.** Public access across state-owned shorelands next to the public campsite on the northeast shore of Klawock Lake will not be precluded.
- **Access to Private Uplands.** Private landowners are guaranteed the right of access across state shorelands; however, fill used to enhance access will not be allowed in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas unless determined compatible through review procedures.

## NOTES

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- Title to the lakebed (shorelands) of Klawock Lake is presently unclear because of the state's challenge of the determination of navigability of waterbodies. The outcome of that contested issue will result in either the state or the Native corporation obtaining title to the lakebed of Klawock Lake.
- There is one heritage site within this unit  
AHRs CRG-119 Klawock Village
- A one-acre designated campsite is on the northeast shore of Klawock Lake.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

The Klawock Lake drainage, outlet stream, and estuary system is reported to be the most productive in southern Southeast Alaska. A pink salmon pre-emergent fry sample site, hatchery, weir, and egg-take site are located on the Klawock River in Sections 11 and 14. Although some runs are currently at lower numbers than historically reported, escapements are being enhanced by the hatchery. The hatchery, located on the north side of the Klawock River approximately one-quarter mile downstream from the mouth of Klawock Lake, produces chum, coho, and chinook salmon fingerlings, and steelhead juveniles for release into the Klawock River. The hatchery has a design capacity of 75 million chum eggs and 3.4 million coho eggs. Between 2,000 and 13,000 steelhead trout were released annually between 1930 and 1982. The quality and quantity of the water supply were primary considerations for hatchery site selection. Therefore, the Department of Fish and Game is concerned about developments (logging, mining, housing, etc.) that might adversely affect the water quality or quantity.

The Klawock weir, located on the Klawock River at the hatchery, is erected annually in August and removed in mid-November. The weir is a metal fence angled downstream, used as an enumeration site for counting migrating sockeye, pink, chum, coho, and steelhead. The escapement information is used in fisheries management. The Klawock egg-take site is at the fish passage opening in the weir. Coho, chum, and steelhead eggs are taken to develop brood stock at the Klawock hatchery. The egg-take location was selected because the stream produces many healthy fish from which eggs and sperm can be taken. According to the Department of Fish and Game, the environment should not be altered in any way that will change the conditions that produced the fish.

Klawock Lake is a potential lake-fertilization site. Coho, pink, red, and chum salmon, as well as steelhead, Dolly Varden, char, cutthroat, and rainbow trout spawn in the tributaries to the lake. Trout and char also overwinter in the lake. The outlet stream is reported to be one of the most productive streams in Alaska for fry and live eggs.

Migrating adult fish school and mill in the estuary, and outmigrating fry also mill and rear in this area. The estuary is an extremely productive wetland that serves as a staging and breeding area for very high densities of waterfowl and shorebirds. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game rates the estuary system very highly. The stream provides a significant sport and subsistence fishery for Klawock residents. The existing road access has increased sport fishing by non-residents.